

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend Claim 1 to read as follows:

Claim 1. (amended) A round of pistol or rifle ammunition including a projectile adapted to be propelled from a pistol or rifle along a trajectory to a target at a subsonic velocity including an elongated generally cup-shaped case having a body portion, a partially closed trailing end which houses a primer, a necked-down portion adjacent an open leading end thereof, and an inner wall, comprising:

an elongated projectile having distal and proximal opposite ends, residing in the necked-down portion of the case with the distal end thereof projecting outside the leading end of the case and with said proximal end thereof extending inwardly of and terminating within the body portion of the case, and with said proximal end of said projectile including a generally planar proximal face disposed substantially perpendicular to the length of said elongated projectile, said proximal end of said projectile terminating inside the body portion of the case with its proximal face disposed proximate a quantity of gun powder disposed within the case and defining a generally annular void volume within the body portion of the case and surrounding that portion of said projectile which projects into the body portion of the case,

a quantity of gun powder disposed within and filling the body portion of the case to a top level adjacent said proximal face of said proximal end of said projectile,

a disc formed of readily flammable, resiliently flexible, effectively solid, material, having first and second opposite and generally parallel faces and when in its relaxed state being of a circumference essentially equal to the inner circumference of the body portion of the case at the location of the level of the quantity of gun powder, said disc being self-supporting and overlying said top level of said powder and disposed between said quantity of powder and said proximal face of said proximal end of said projectile within the case, with its circumference in frictional engagement with the inner wall of the case, thereby defining a barrier against the passage of said gun powder into said annular void volume of the case and maintaining the gun powder

positionally stable within the case with few or no material void spaces within the volume of the gun powder.

Claim 2. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 1 and including a further disc having distal and proximal opposite faces, disposed within the body portion of the case and between said disc and said proximal face of said proximal end of said projectile, said further disc being of fibrous material having a plurality of tortuous passageways through the thickness thereof which serve to filter and capture within said disc individual particles of gun powder, thereby defining a further barrier against the passage of the gun powder into said annular void volume within the case.

Delete Claim 3, without prejudice.

Claim 4. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 1 wherein said disc comprises paper stock having a basis weight of about 75 pounds.

Claim 5. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 1 wherein said disc is of a first thickness centrally thereof and of a second and lesser thickness in the circumferential margin thereof.

Claim 6. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 5 wherein said first thickness centrally of said disc is about 0.14 inch and said second and lesser thickness in the circumferential margin thereof is about 0.10 inch.

Claim 7. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 1 wherein said disc comprises natural fibers.

Claim 8. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 7 wherein the weight of said disc is between about 0.10 and about 0.16 grains.

Claim 9. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 2 wherein said distal face of said further disc is disposed contiguous said disc and said proximal face of said further disc is proximate said proximal face of said proximal end of said projectile disposed within said body portion of said case.

Claim 10. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 1 wherein the gun powder is slow burning.

Claim 11. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 1 wherein said projectile includes a body portion intermediate its distal and proximal ends, said distal end of said projectile defines an ogive, and said projectile is tapered from a first and minimum diameter at its proximal end to a second and greater diameter adjacent the transition of said body portion of said projectile to said ogive of said projectile.

Claim 12. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 11 wherein the difference between said first and second diameters of said tapered projectile is about 0.00030 inch.

Claim 13. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 12 wherein said round is suitable for firing from a gun of 5.56 mm.

Claim 14. (amended) The round of ammunition of Claim 1 and including a separator having a diameter substantially less than, the internal diameter of the case proximate the location of said disc and interposed between said disc and the proximal face of the proximal end of the projectile.

Claim 25. (New) The round of ammunition of Claim 14 wherein said separator comprises a hollow, open-ended tube.

Claim 26. (New) The round of ammunition of Claim 1 wherein said disc is formed of a material which is readily flammable, resiliently flexible to the extent that it can be folded to pass through the necked-down portion of the case and will rebound to its disc geometry upon